# THE BLUEPRINT FOR CHILDREN'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE

### High-quality early care and education

Did you know that by age 5 nearly 90 percent of the brain's foundation for communications, critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork is developed—skills that employers nationwide cite as critical to succeeding in the workplace?

Did you know that the achievement gap, often discussed in the context of K-12 education, begins well before kindergarten, with many children entering school without the basic social, emotional and intellectual skills they will need to be successful in school and perform well in the workplace?

Most people accept that child care enables people to work, of course, but often that's as far as the consideration goes.

We encourage you to challenge your preconceptions and review the extraordinary research on the back page. You'll see citations to studies that support early childhood education and how it affects your company's bottom line.

> The facts show high-quality early childhood education is a smart investment that creates long-term savings and dividends.

Children who receive high-quality early childhood education are more likely to:

- Do well in school
- Graduate from high school
- Go on to college

"The best way to develop a well-educated and well-trained workforce for the future is to start early—because even the best schools cannot produce the best workers if children are coming to school ready to fail."

- Former NC Governor James B. Hunt



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A blueprint for success. Ready for school. Ready for life.

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## MORE ABOUT THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CASE FOR INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

### **Educational Impacts:**

- Reduced grade retention
- Reduced special education enrollment
- Increased HS completion rate
- Higher rate of 4-year college attendance
- Long-term improvement in language and math ability
- Statistically significant improvement on academic achievement tests

#### **Cost Benefits:**

- Long-term benefits to society are estimated to be positive
- Benefit-cost ratios range from 2.5 to 1 to 13 to 1

## **Behavioral Impacts:**

- Reduced juvenile arrests for program participants
- · Reduced crime and delinquency; improved behavior, motivation and self-control
- Reduced pregnancy rates

### Impacts on Cognition:

- Positive effects on IQ were seen through age 21
- Positive and lasting effects on cognitive and attention skills are seen for highquality child care
- Positive effects on reading and math scores
- Positive effects for cognitive and language development

## **Social Impacts:**

- Improved social-emotional development
- Reduced aggressive behavior
- Improved school readiness
- Improved social competence

## **Societal Benefits:**

- Reduced welfare use
- Higher lifetime earnings for program participants
- Greater labor force participation by mothers of program participants

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